

**BENNIE G. THOMPSON**  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2402**

February 6, 2020

Mr. Andrew Wheeler, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request – Yazoo Backwater Pump Project**

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

This letter is a request for records in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552). This letter is pursuant to a constituent request that my office facilitate information relative to the Yazoo Backwater Pumps project (the “Yazoo Pumps”). As Congressman for the second congressional district of Mississippi, I am writing to you to draw your attention to the critical flooding and infrastructure issues that are impacting my district in Mississippi as well as throughout the state. These issues of flooding have persisted over the years and has worsened as evidenced by the aftermath of a severe tornado storm that left approximately 500,000 acres of the Mississippi Delta under water just last year.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Clean Water Act 404(c) Final Determination prohibiting construction of the Yazoo Pumps on August 31, 2008. However, during an April 3, 2019 hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, EPA Administrator Wheeler confirmed that EPA was reconsidering that 2008 Final Determination.

As used in this request, the term “Documents” means all records or written or printed materials, including letters, memoranda, analyses, studies, reports, meeting summaries, agendas, photographs, and any other relevant documentation, whether in draft or final form, or in the form of e-mail messages, documentation of telephone conversations, handwritten notes, and other mediums of communication.

I am requesting the following Documents:

1. *All studies, analyses, reports, assessments, or hydrologic models related to the Yazoo Pumps prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provided by the Corps of Engineers to EPA between January 1, 2019 and the present.*

2. *All Documents evidencing any review or analysis by EPA of the Documents requested in paragraph*

*1, above.*

<input type="checkbox"/> 107 WEST MADISON STREET P.O. BOX 610 BOLTON, MS 39041 (601) 866-9003 (601) 866-9036: FAX (800) 355-9003: IN ST.	<input type="checkbox"/> 728 MAIN STREET, SUITE A GREENWOOD, MS 38930 (662) 455-9003 (662) 453-0118: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 COURTHOUSE LANE GREENVILLE, MS 38701 (662) 335-9003 (662) 334-1304: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 3607 MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD JACKSON, MS 39213 (601) 946-9003 (601) 982-5337: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 263 EAST MAIN STREET MARKS, MS 38646 (662) 326-9003	<input type="checkbox"/> MOUND BAYOU CITY HALL 106 GREEN AVENUE, SUITE 106 MOUND BAYOU, MS 38762 (662) 741-9003 (662) 741-9002: FAX
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3. *All Documents evidencing communications related to the Yazoo Pumps from January 1, 2019 to the present between EPA and any of the following: (a) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (b) any federal, state, or local governmental entities, or (c) any members of Congress.*

The requested information will be used to help evaluate and provide comments on any reconsideration of the Yazoo Pumps and for educating citizens and decision makers about the impacts of the Yazoo Pumps. Understanding these impacts and the methodology used to evaluate these impacts is clearly of interest to the public because the Yazoo Pumps will impact habitat that is essential to the nation's fish and wildlife resources, which are of fundamental concern to the public.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am entitled to all the requested information. Should you decide all or any portion of the requested materials are not to be disclosed, please describe the material withheld and specify in detail the statutory or administrative basis for withholding that material. I am requesting a response to my office within twenty (20) working days, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. If further justification is needed to support this initiative, please don't hesitate to contact Claytrice Henderson in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-5876 or via email at [claytrice.henderson@mail.house.gov](mailto:claytrice.henderson@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

